

Voters threw baby out with bath water

To the editor:

The famous warning "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water" couldn't be any more accurate when describing the terrible turn Sullivan County government has taken.

Before the last election, our county commissioners had eliminated the \$2 million annual deficit at the nursing home. At the same time, they had also improved the quality of care at the nursing home. A few examples of these improvements included adding air conditioning in the dining room and thermostats in each patient's room. A long-term plan was also put in place to replace the county jail, and things were looking up. In fact, two of our own Republican commissioners, Rudy Adler and Don Clarke, were voted County Commissioners of the Year for their hard work.

However, last November voters sent many national Republicans packing, but at the same time "threw the baby out with the bath water" at the local level. The results have been nothing short of disastrous. This new group of inexperienced Democrats first move was to fire Genesis, (the company that helped bring the county out of the red) without having a backup plan. Their next decision was to temporar-

ily hire a new private management company that is even more expensive than Genesis. What's the long-term plan? It is identical to the old failed plan at the nursing home, when the infrastructure was crumbling and the county was losing \$2 million a year.

On the budgetary side, the picture is just as bleak. Anyone watching cable access or reading the paper can see the new Democrats are in completely over their heads. Whether it's arrogance or incompetence, recent examples of their leadership include not calling on people in meetings who have had their hand up for an hour, and holding meetings without public notice. Peter Franklin's performance as chairman is embarrassing, and one has to ask "Who elected this person chair?" The answer is all the new Democrats in the county.

So if you think going back to higher taxes, poor management of the county nursing home, abandoning plans for the new jail, eliminating long-term maintenance and being the laughing stock of the state of New Hampshire sounds like a good idea, then I would suggest you vote for this crew again. But if not, remember that county commissioners Ethel Jarvis and Jeff Barrette in particular, and the new Democrats from Sullivan County in general, put us in this predicament. Restoring a balance of power in our county will serve us well, and I urge everyone to remember that next election.

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